

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Delete the current Abstract and replace therewith the attached substitute Abstract.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[[The]] An optical deflector ~~comprises:~~ including an optical waveguide [[12]] of a dielectric material having electrooptical effect; and a pair of electrodes [[10, 14]] opposed to each other across the optical waveguide[[, an]]. An electric field is applied between the opposed electrodes to change a refractive index of the dielectric material to thereby control a propagating direction of signal light propagating in the optical waveguide [[12]], wherein the dielectric material has a first refractive index in its initial state, has a second refractive index by application of an electric field of a first polarity, and retains as a third refractive index a refractive index obtained after the electric field has been removed. The dielectric material [[has]] having the third refractive index has the first refractive index by the application of an electric field of a second polarity different from the first polarity and removal of the electric field.